37

DEF 12-5 JORDAN

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State* 732

SECRET

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Action
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VV QMA517KGA813
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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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INFO RUCJHK/CINCSTRIKE
RUFGWC/DEFREPNAMA PARIS
RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY LONDON SIX
RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY PARIS SIX
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Duncan Peters DATE 8/1/84
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☒ RELEASABLE☒
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

REFERENCE: DEPTEL 18 def 12-5

CINCSTRIKE FOR RAMSEY

INFORMED PRIME MINISTER TELL JULY 14 THAT USG NOT PREPARED AT THIS TIME TO RECEIVE KHAMMASH FOR TALKS RE SUPERSONICS AND KHAMMASH SHOULD THEREFORE RETURN AMMAN. TELL SAID HE HAD WANTED DISCUSS SAME SUBJECT WITH ME SINCE HE HAD JUST RECEIVED QUERY FROM KING ON STATUS OF REQUEST HE HAD MADE ON JUNE 25 (EMBTEL 788). ASKED IF I HAD ANY FURTHER INFORMATION.

PAGE TWO RUQMKG 92A S E C R E T

I SAID THAT QUITE FRANKLY WASHINGTON NOT SATISFIED WITH VALIDITY OF FRENCH REPLY AND WE HAD OURSELVES RAISED PROBLEM WITH GOF. REMINDED HIM THAT QUESTION OF SUPERSONICS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED EXTENSIVELY IN FEBRUARY AND THAT KING HAD SUBSEQUENTLY REVIEWED THOSE DISCUSSIONS WITH NASSER. HE HAD THEN WITHDRAWN REQUEST FOR 104'S AND AGREED TO SEEK MIRAGES. SAID I THOUGHT SAME BASIC SITUATION PREVAILED TODAY SINCE FRENCH AS LARGE SUPPLIER OF ISRAEL WERE IN MUCH BETTER POSITION TO MEET JORDANIAN REQUEST.

TELL SAID UNFORTUANATELY FRENCH REFUSAL HAD BEEN IN SUCH CATEGORIC TERMS THAT HE DID NOT SEE ANY OPENING FOR CONTINUATION OF NEGOTIATIONS. FURTHER, FOR GREAT VARIETY OF REASONS, HE PREFERRED KEEP ENTIRE ARMY AND AIR FORCE UNDER U.S. TRAINING AND TO GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE WITH U.S. EQUIPMENT. JORDAN COULD ONLY HOPE HAVE USEFUL IMPACT IN THIS AREA WITH CONTINUED U.S.

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SUPPORT AND HE FELT IT WAS IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST TO CONTINUE THIS SUPPORT. HE ADDED THAT EVEN IF SUPPLYING 104'S MEANT GIVING ISRAEL EQUAL NUMBER HE PREFERRED THAT SOLUTION.

WHEN I INQUIRED ABOUT NATURE OF PRESSURE JORDAN UNDER, TELL SAID ESSENTIAL ELEMENT WAS THAT GOJ HAD COMMITTED ITSELF BEFORE ALL ARAB LEADERS TO ACQUIRE SUPERSONIC SQUADRON AND IT WAS THIS

COMMITMENT WHICH MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO GO TO NEXT SUMMIT WITHOUT AN ANSWER. ALSO WE HAD ENCOURAGED KING TO MAKE CERTAIN STATEMENTS LAST SEPTEMBER WHICH HAD FULLY ENGAGED HIS PRESTIGE. THEREFORE GOJ COULD NOT SAY NO WITHOUT AGREEING TO SOME UAC ALTERNATE SOLUTION.

TELL COMMENTED THAT PREDOMINANT PROBLEM AT LAST ARAB PRIME MINISTER MEETING HAD BEEN SYRIAN ATTACKS ON UAC FOR LACK OF ADEQUATE GROUND SUPPORT AND AIR COVER. THIS QUESTION SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION NEXT SEPTEMBER AND PRESSURES WOULD BE TREMENDOUS. SINCE BOTH GROUND SUPPORT AND AIR COVER WERE IN PART TO COME FROM JORDAN, IMMEDIATE FOCUS OF DISCUSSION WOULD BE JORDAN. ALSO NASSER IN SITUATION TODAY WHERE HE BADLY NEEDED SCAPEGOAT AND JORDAN ALWAYS LEADING CANDIDATE FOR THIS ROLE.

BECAUSE OF OUR HELP WITH GROUND FORCE GOJ IN GOOD SHAPE ON THAT SIE AND COULD CONTINUE RESIST PRESSURES FOR STATIONING FOREIGN TROOPS OR PLA UNITS IN JORDAN BUT WITHOUT ANSWER ON AIR FORCE JUST COULD NOT RESIST UAC ON THAT SUBJECT AS WELL. WHEN I ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF HE HAD NO PLANES, TELL SAID HE COULD NOT PREDICT REACTION OF KING BUT HE PERSONALLY FELT THAT DESPITE ALL RESULTING INTERNAL PROBLEMS THEY WOULD HAVE NO

CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT STATIONING OF FOREIGN AIRCRAFT IN JORDAN.

TELL THEN SAID HE COULD NOT SEE WHY WE WERE MAKING SUCH AN ISSUE OF THIS. FIRST USG HAD GIVEN COMMITMENT TO START PILOT TRAINING LAST OCTOBER WHICH ALREADY TEN MONTHS OVERDUE. WHY COULD WE NOT START THAT TRAINING AND PROMISE TO SUPPLY PLANES AS PILOTS AND GROUND CREW BECAME AVAILABLE? IT SHOULD BE

POSSIBLE SPREAD THIS OUT OVER TWO YEARS AND BY THEN ARRIVAL OF SUPERSONICS MORE OR LESS MERGED WITH NEED TO REPLACE HAWKER-HUNTERS WHICH BOTH GOVERNMENTS AGREED WAS NECESSARY. THIS WOULD GET THEM THROUGH SUMMIT WITHOUT REALLY INCREASING AIR FORCE. OTHERWISE IN LIGHT OF RECENT ISRAEL ATTACKS THEY JUST COULD NOT STAND UP TO THEIR ARAB COLLEAGUES AND SAY NO, AND ARRIVAL OF MIG'S IN JORDAN WOULD BE MAJOR BLOW TO U.S. POSITION IN ARAB WORLD.

GP-3. BARNES
BT